



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Rhode Island Division

October 9, 2015

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[www.fhwa.dot.gov/ridiv/index.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ridiv/index.htm)

In Reply Refer To:  
HDA-RI

**SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Mr. Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E, Director  
Rhode Island Department of Transportation  
Two Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02903-1124

Subject: *FHWA Response to RIDOT September 29, 2015 Tolling Letter*

Dear Director Alviti:

I am sending this letter in response to your letter of September 29, 2015, wherein you provided an update on progress in responding to our letter of May 22, 2015. In this letter you also included a request for an answer to a question regarding tolling at locations where the highway intersects with an overhead bridge. In particular you expressed the desire to consider the option of tolling combined unit trucks that traverse the highway located under the overpass bridges.

In accordance with 23 U.S.C. 129(a)(1)(E), an existing toll-free bridge or tunnel may be converted into a toll facility as part of a project to reconstruct or replace the existing facility. This authority allows for the tolling of traffic carried on the reconstructed/replaced bridge (reflecting the common understanding of a "toll bridge"). However, the legislation does not allow the tolling of traffic passing under the bridge (as that facility would be considered a toll road rather than a toll bridge).

We encourage you to continue to seek alternative revenue sources to address the transportation infrastructure issues we are facing here in Rhode Island and are available to assist in any way we can. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

For: Carlos C. Machado  
Division Administrator